



AMENDMENT / RESPONSE TRANSMITTAL

Applicants : Yutaka Mizuno et al.
App. No. : 10/659,424
Filed : September 10, 2003
For : WATERCRAFT STEERING
ASSIST SYSTEM
Examiner : Sherman D. Basinger
Art Unit : 3617

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all marked attachments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

September 29, 2004

(Date)

Michael A. Guiliana, Reg. No. 42,611

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing in the above-identified application are the following enclosures:

- (X) Response to Restriction Requirement in 2 pages.
- (X) Return prepaid postcard.
- (X) Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicants : Yutaka Mizuno et al.) Group Art Unit 3617
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September 20, 2004

(Date)

Michael A. Guiliana, Reg. No. 42,611

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants elect the species of Figures 2-5 for prosecution in the present application. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 24-26, 29, and 30 read on the elected species, Claims 1-3, 5, 24-26, 29, and 30 being generic.

The present election is being made with traverse. Applicant submits that it is well established that:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without **serious burden**, the examiner **must** examine it on the merits, **even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.**

M.P.E.P. § 803 (emphasis added).

The non-elected Groups are directed to watercraft having steering systems responsive to detected steering forces and the elected Group is also drawn to watercraft having steering systems responsive to detected steering forces. A proper search for art related to the elected Group would necessarily include the classes and subclasses relevant to a search for the non-elected Group. Thus, examination of all the claims would not

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present "a serious burden" on the Examiner. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the present restriction requirement be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: September 29, 2004

By: 

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